LGBTQ+ CNG

LGBTQ+ People & COVID

Ithaca College has compiled a comprehensive page of resources and guidance for the LGBTQ+ community during the crisis.

Welcome!

The mission of the Cornell University LGBTQ Colleague Network Group is to raise awareness about workplace issues faced by LGBTQIA faculty and staff; provide networking opportunities for LGBTQIA faculty and staff and a forum to discuss topics of mutual interest and innovative solutions with senior leaders; and to support the recruitment and retention of LGBTQIA faculty and staff.

What we do:

Our group meets monthly for lunch and socializing. Our meetings usually feature a presentation or facilitated discussion. We also network with external LGBTQIA groups and organize events, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities to support our community.

Have an announcement, info you'd like to share, or suggestions for topics or guest presenters? Let us know!

Join the LGBTQ+ CNG

Coming up!
Hi Everyone,

SO EXCITED to invite you all to our first in-person/hybrid meeting in a loooooong time!!!

Please bring your own lunch for now (we hope to be back to catered lunches again soon). Note that this meeting will be held on North Campus in Toni Morrison hall – a great opportunity to come check out this new facility if you haven’t had a chance to visit yet!

We hope you can join us in person, but don’t worry, we’ll be continuing to Zoom these meetings – it’s been wonderful to connect with our colleagues in NYC, DC, and other off-campus locations.

This month’s discussion is about creating safe spaces, and will be facilitated by Kaity Benson, member of our CNG and Residence Hall Director at Toni Morrison Hall.

REGISTER NOW!
above to learn what's coming up next!

**2022 Monthly Meeting Schedule**

- January 14
- February 11
- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

**Join our Giving Back Committee:**

One of the pillars of our work as a colleague network group is our commitment to giving back to our community. If you have an interest in being part of this committee, please email Sue Brightly (skk72@cornell.edu).

**Pride**

During the pandemic our CNG hosted a number of virtual Pride activities, including facilitated discussions, Drag Bingo, and a Pride-themed trivia evening. We plan to represent Cornell at the Central NY Pride parade in Syracuse the next time it's held.

![Pride Colors]

**Annual Fundraising Drive**

In 2020 we held a sock and underwear drive to benefit local homeless youth through the Open Doors Program of Family & Children's Service of Ithaca. Thanks to the generosity of our Cornell colleagues, we were able to donate hundreds of articles of clothing. We're excited to be supporting them in their efforts.
Volunteering

Join us in volunteering as a group for some of Cornell's big events: Employee Celebrations, Slope Day, Commencement, and more. It's always more fun when you know a few folks!

Meet Our Board

Michael Betteken (he/him)

I am excited to be a part of this CNG board and serve as the historian. At Cornell, I am the Senior Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) administrator within the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) part of the Research Division. Before coming to Cornell, I worked to support a new chapter of PFLAG in North Carolina to support the parents of the local LGBTQ+ youth and to create a safe space for this group. I am very passionate about LGBTQ+ representation in all professionals and am looking forward to supporting LGBTQ+ staff here at Cornell. In my free time you can find me creating artisan soap and taking care of my cats and dog.

Sue Brightly (she/her)

Hi there! I'm currently serving as one of our board co-chairs. I work in HR Communications, and have been at Cornell for over seven years. I'm also an artist on the Ithaca Art Trail! I'm grateful for the opportunity to help make Cornell a more welcoming workplace and to support our LGBTQ+ community. I'm especially interested in advocating for LGBTQ+ families. Feel free to reach out with questions, suggestions, or just to say hi: skk72@cornell.edu
Crissi Dalfonzo (she/her)

Hey y'all! I currently serve as one of the co-chairs of the CNG board. I've been at Cornell for three and a half years, working in the LGBT Resource Center the whole time. I’m passionate about social justice education, Inclusive language, and creating community. One of my top priorities on the board is creating opportunities for LGBTQ+ staff and faculty to connect with one another and form community. Outside of work, I’m a dog mom, lover of all things sparkle and rainbow unicorn, and a lifelong knitter of over 20 years. Feel free to contact me at cd589@cornell.edu with questions or ideas!

Foula Dimopoulos (ze/hir/hirs/hirself | he/him/his/his self)

(Bio & photo coming)

Zoe Roberts (she/her)

I've been a part of Cornell’s LGBTQ+ community since 2016 – first as an undergrad student with Haven (the student LGBTQ+ org), and now as an employee serving as a board member-at-large for our Colleague Network Group! I graduated with a B.A. in Information Science in 2020, and joined eCornell's Product Team as an Associate Product Manager in March 2021. I enjoy living in Ithaca with my partner and cat, though I do miss the mountains in my home state Colorado. I love all things creative!

I look forward to creating opportunities for folks to connect with one another and build community! As a younger and newer employee, I also hope to welcome and be a resource for others in a similar place. My inbox is always open: Zer3@cornell.edu
Hello everyone, I am very excited to be joining the board of the LGBTQ+ Colleague Network Group (CNG) serving as a member-at-large! I am a Computational Scientist in the Center for Advanced Computing (CAC) which is part of the Research Division at Cornell.

Some of my work includes projects related to the intersection of advanced computing and social change as well as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives within academia, the technology industry, and the High-Performance Computing (HPC) community specifically. I have a passion for creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces where everyone can be their full selves, and thus thrive together to solve the urgent problems our world is facing. I especially see the need for current Cornell staff and faculty to have these spaces so that we have a framework with which to welcome diverse students and younger generations into the higher education space. I am glad to be a part of maintaining that space here through our CNG, and welcome all people with LGBTQIA+ identities to participate.

I also take graduate classes at Cornell in applied mathematics part-time, and read math books for fun. Outside of work and academics, I love spending time with my wife/life partner and our pets, playing the drums, and I’m just getting back into cycling, running, and rock climbing after my third knee surgery. If you are curious to know more about the CAC or my research, you can learn more [here](#). Please feel free to [email me](#) if you would like to connect or are curious to know more.

FAQs

**Who can join?**

This group is intended to support Cornell employees who identify throughout the LGBTQIA spectrum or who are questioning.

**Are there membership dues?**

Membership is free and supported by Cornell University.

**Do I have to go to meetings, or any other membership requirements?**

We hope you'll join us at our in-person meetings and events, but there are no attendance or membership requirements.

**Can I only join one CNG at a time?**

You're welcome to join multiple CNGs.

**Resources**

[ Cornell LGBTQ+ Resource Guide for Faculty & Staff](#)
LGBTQ+ Resources for Cornell Employees

Visit this page for information about:

- Benefits - Marriage, Domestic Partnership, Parenting, Adoption
- Name Change, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation Fields in Workday, Legal Name & Gender Marker Change Process
- Cornell Policies
- Crisis Support
- Guides - Transgender Guide to Transitioning & Gender Affirmation in the Workplace; Gender-Inclusive Pronouns; Restroom/Facilities Use Guidelines
- Networking
- Local & Regional Resources

Ithaca LGBTQ History Walking Tour

Did you know that Ithaca:

- is the site of one of the 1st public declarations of the American bisexual movement
- played a crucial role in marriage equality
- was one of the 1st cities in the US to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation
- is where one of the 1st student-organized sit-ins for LGBTQ rights took place. ...and more!

Ithaca and Tompkins County hold unique and meaningful roles in local LGBTQ history and culture, as well as in the national LGBTQ rights movement and for communities across the globe.

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